

Washington, DC - Today, the House of Representatives passed the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act (H.R. 1016) to ensure sufficient, timely and predictable veterans funding and the Women Veterans Health Care Improvement Act (H.R. 1211) to expand VA health care services for the 1.8 million women who have bravely served their country. Congressman Charles Gonzalez (TX-20), co-sponsor of both bills, issued the following statement applauding passage.

“Our nation owes a great deal of gratitude to those who have courageously served our country. The bills passed today provide necessary improvements in how medical care is provided for our veterans and reflect our commitment to providing full access to health care to our brave men and women.

“In addition, the Women Veterans Health Care Act expands benefits to our nation's mothers, daughters, sisters and wives that have proudly served in the military. Today, women soldiers encounter new challenges while serving in combat conditions alongside their male counterparts. I am proud to co-sponsor a bill that works to address the new set of issues facing female veterans and provide them with better, more appropriate, care when they return home. These investments are only some of the first steps we must take to help build a future worthy of our veteran's sacrifices.”

The Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act authorizes Congress to approve investments in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical care one year in advance to provide time for the VA to plan how to deliver the best care to an increasing number of veterans with increasingly complex medical conditions. Furthermore, the Women Veterans Health Care Improvement Act (H.R. 1211) will expand and improve VA health care services and includes: a study of barriers to women veterans seeking health care, assessment of women's health care programs, enhancement of VA sexual trauma programs and enhancement of PTSD treatment for women.

Over 40 groups, including the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans and the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, have come out in support of the legislation

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